

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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AID-05 SCCT-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-10 /074 W

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R 220950Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: STUDENTS PROTEST DETENTIONS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0795

1. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN STUDENTS HELD MASS MEETING ON CAMPUS
AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 21 TO PROTEST FIVE DETENTIONS UNDER TERRORISM
ACT (REFTEL).

2. ADDRESSING MEETING, GEOFF BUDLENDER, FORMER INTERIM CHAIRMAN
OF NUT; AND CURRENTLY LAW STUDENT AND ASSOCIATE OF INSTITUTE OF
RACE RELATIONS AND CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, SAID HE WAS "SHOCKED,
HORRIFIED AND SICKENED" BY DETENTIONS OF PERSONS WHOSE ONLY LINK
WAS THAT THEY ARE SOUTH AFRICANS COMMITTED TO THEIR COUNTRY AND
ITS PEOPLE. RECENTLY ELECTED SRG PRESIDENT (KNOWN AS POLITICALLY
MODERATE) DIRK KEMP CALLED FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND "COMPLETE
REJECTION" OF TERRORISM ACT WHICH, HE SAID, AMOUNTED TO "VOTE OF
NO CONFIDENCE IN THE COURTS OF THE LAND".

3. SIR RICHARD LUYT, PRINCIPAL OF UCT, ALSO ADDRESSING THE
THE MEETIN, IN SUPPORT OF MOTION REQUESTING REPEAL OF TERRORISM
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ACT AND RELEASE OF DETAINEES, SAID HE WAS "IMMENSELY CONCERNED"

AND SHARED THE STUDENT'S PROTEST. PRP MP VAN ZYL SLABBERT, ALSO SUPPORTING THIS MOTION, SAID CONNECTION BETWEEN LAW AND JUSTICE LOST ALL MEANING UNDER TERRORISM ACT.

4. OTHER SPEAKERS WERE NIGEL WILLIS, FORMER SRC PRESIDENT, AND MIKE STENT, NUSAS PRESIDENT-ELECT. STUDENTS THEN APPROVED ALONG LINE OF KEMP'S PROPOSAL (ABOVE) BY 1000 TO 4 ABSTENTIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, AND DECIDED TO HOLD ACTION MEETING ON CAMPUS DURING AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 22.

5. BEGIN LOU. IN TALKING TO ME AFTER UNIVERSITY PROTEST RALLY, BUDLENDER DISCOUNTED KOTZE'S THEORY (REFTEL) AND SAID HE SAW NO PATTERN WHATSOEVER TO DETENTIONS. POLLEY HAD ONLY SLIGHT CONNECTION WITH NUSAS IN THE PAST AND RILEY NONE AT ALL. UNLESS ALL FIVE HAD BEEN UP TO SOMETHING OF WHICH HE WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE HE WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY THESE PERSONS HAD BEEN SEIZED. HE ALSO WAS PUZZLED BY TIMING OF DETENTIONS AS THESE USUALLY ARE CARRIED OUT IN RAPID ORDER. POLLEY, RILEY AND MARE WERE TAKEN IN AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME (BETWEEN 1 AND 2:30 P.M. ON AUGUST 21 ACCORDING TO BUDLENDER) BUT TIM AND MOSS WERE PICKED UP MUCH LATER DURING NIGHT. EITHER SECURITY POLICE HAD FUMBLED OR THEIR QUESTIONING OF FIRST THREE HAD YIELDED INFORMATION THAT MADE LAST TWO SUSPECT. END LOU.

GAMON

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